NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 1943 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 11, NO. 2

Monthly Memo TO: *Local Presidents*

A NUMBER of you accepted my invitation to write me, and I have enjoyed your letters, your programs, your accounts of your activities, your questions. Perhaps more of you will write me next month.

Parent-Teacher Arithmetic.—Your work is now well under way, and I wonder if you have ever thought about the "arithmetic problems" of a local president. You can *multiply* yourself many times over by releasing the energy and ability of others, or you can *divide* yourself into so many small pieces by doing everything yourself that you can give little attention to any one thing. By the type of leadership you give your own association, you can *add* to the dignity and prestige of the whole parent-teacher organization, or you can *subtract* from it if you do not live up to our aims and objectives. How is your arithmetic?

National Board Meeting.—We have just closed a very stimulating meeting of the National Board of Managers, and everything discussed was considered from the viewpoint of the *local* association and what you can do along the many lines of our endeavor. Read what we tell you about this meeting elsewhere; expect information about it from your state leaders.

We decided we must have more help from the schools in giving training for home and family life, at various age levels, in our school curriculums; why not talk this matter over with your school superintendent and others, so that community interest may be aroused?

Letters Tell of Achievement.—May I mention just one or two of the interesting letters that have come this month? From Birmingham, Alabama, I got clippings and a letter telling of a fine program of teen-age dances to help meet the social needs of boys and girls who are too young to go into military service and yet too old for children's activities. Are some other communities sponsoring similar programs?

From Hawaii comes a letter, with newspaper clippings enclosed, telling of the difficulty of keeping young children in school. There is a need for agricultural labor in Hawaii, and an effort is being made to use children from twelve up for this purpose. The Hawaii parent-teacher membership, however, feels that children must be educated if they are to become intelligent citizens of the future. We are meeting similar problems on the mainland; I hope we all meet them as courageously as do our fellow-members in Hawaii.

Toward a Safer U. S. A.—The National Safety Congress has just been meeting in Chicago, and the facts and figures given us about accidents at home are astounding—we wonder whether we might not be safer at the battle front! One of the sad facts brought out is that so many young children are killed or crippled in home and highway accidents. And another is that our homes are such dangerous places. The National Congress is one of the big national organizations cooperating in this important work of safety on the home front. Will not each of you try to include something about this matter in your programs? Do you cooperate with your local safety councils?

A suggestion came to me from a national Boy Scout official that most Boy and Girl Scout troops have some definite training in safety and would be delighted to demonstrate their knowledge as a feature of a parent-teacher meeting. We sponsor the Scouts in many places and cooperate with them when we can, so why not bring them into a meeting and help along the movement for safety at home, on the highway, and on the farm, at the same time showing interest in the Scouts?

First Things First.—Several people have asked about our thinking on the wartime employment of mothers of young children. The best answer I can give is to refer to a quotation from the report of the special war committee. You will find the quotation on page 2 of this *Bulletin*.

Don't be discouraged if you can't do all you would like to do, or if the attendance at your meetings is smaller than you would like it to be. Remember that no work is more important than the rearing, education, and protection of the next generation. Choose your special war activities with that in mind; do what extra work you can, but do only such things as will not disrupt your home life or keep you away from your home and children too much.

Jennetta A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

NATIONAL CONGRESS RADIO PROGRAM BEGINS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6
VISIT YOUR SCHOOLS DURING AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK, NOVEMBER 7-13

Radio PROGRAM BEGINS NOVEMBER 6

Dial In On The Baxters
Saturdays—1:30 p.m., Eastern War Time
Over NBC—National Hookup

DID YOU ever wish that you could make yourself invisible and creep into other homes to hear how families there settle problems similar to yours? Or at least hear the arguments? You *can* be an invisible guest in the home of the Baxters, and what fun you will have! Just tune in on "The Family in War" and presto! you'll find yourself in a typical American family circle—Marge, Bill, Janey, Bud, and Sandy Baxter, and their friends. This fascinating serial, packed with human interest and snappy dialogue, is habit-forming, we'll admit—but it's a good habit to form.

Beginning November 6, the "The Family in War" will be back on the air every Saturday from 1:30 to 1:45 p.m. Eastern War Time (which is 12:30 in the Middle West, 11:30 in the region of the Rockies, and 10:30 a.m. on the Pacific Coast). Your local newspaper will tell you which station carries the program in your vicinity. There will be no Baxter broadcast, however, on November 27 or December 25.

As you probably know, this series of broadcasts is part of the whole audio-visual education program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. In addition to being delightful entertainment, it is thoroughly sound from an educational and psychological standpoint. Parent education groups might make it a point to listen in regularly and then discuss the broadcasts at their next meeting. It is helpful, too, if someone takes notes on the broadcast, as these notes can furnish a good basis for future discussions.

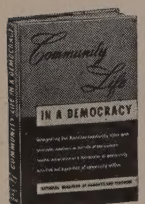
The subjects of the first thirteen broadcasts, listed below, indicate the scope and the down-to-earth, practical value of this year's parent-teacher radio program.

1. **They Don't Mean to be Bad.**
2. **What's Worth Learning?**
3. **Have They Time to Play?**
4. **So You Can't Get into Uniform!**
5. **The War Bride Grows Up.**
6. **Let's Go to Church.**
7. **Whose Job — His or Hers?**
8. **The Major Needs of Minors.**
9. **Easy Come, Easy Go.**
10. **Marriage Is for Keeps.**
11. **Watch Your Step.**
12. **The Family Talks It Over.**
13. **Bill Baxter, P.T.A. President.**

Time on the air is rationed today; therefore let's make the most of these fifteen-minute dramatizations of problems on the P.T.A. home front.

Drop a line to Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, chairman of the Radio Project Committee, 600 South Michigan Blvd., Chicago 5, Illinois, telling how the broadcast came over and how it fitted into your program.

"The Family in War" is presented in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company, which for many years has made it possible for the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to educate by radio.



"OBSTACLES," someone aptly pointed out not long ago, "are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal." Some of us are seeing a good many obstacles these days. Can it be that we need something to help us keep our eyes ahead, right on those vital goals toward which we are striving?

Lately there have been strong indications that others besides parent-teacher workers are finding *Community Life in a Democracy* just what is needed for preserving long-range eyesight and deep-gauged insight. Real estate men, storekeepers, doctors, nurses, recreation officials, social workers, police departments—all have found this book invaluable as an interpreter of community needs.

Community Life in a Democracy will not be reprinted, because of wartime paper restrictions. Orders will continue to be filled in the rotation in which received. If you want a copy of this book, it will be wise to place your order immediately. It is offered at cost price to parent-teacher associations—$1.00. Order from the National Office.

A STEP FORWARD IN NARCOTICS EDUCATION

A STEP forward in narcotics education was taken last July when the Yale School of Alcohol Studies was opened. The first formal school of its kind in the history of the United States, it may prove the beginning of a movement that will bring the complexity and magnitude of the alcohol problem to the attention of the nation in such a way as to stimulate constructive action.

Directed by Dr. E. M. Jellinek and Dr. Howard W. Haggard, both of Yale's Department of Applied Psychology, the School conducted a six weeks' session. The student body of 79 included educators, social workers, clergymen, employees of state governments, representatives of the distillers, etc.

The approach of the School was entirely scientific, presenting information and facts, but leaving their interpretation to the layman and the temperance organizations. The School becomes a permanent part of Yale University, and another session will be held next summer. A staff is being built and new research is being carried on, particularly in the sociological field.

MOTHERS IN INDUSTRY

Statement from the Report of the War Committee

THE National Congress of Parents and Teachers believes that there is no satisfactory substitute in the life of a child for a home, and that the personal care and guidance of his mother are essential to his welfare. The Congress, therefore, reaffirms its opposition to the employment of mothers of children under fourteen years of age until such time as all other sources of labor have been utilized, and then only if adequate care and supervision have been provided for the children.

"In order to insure that such provision be made, it is suggested that a clearance from a community-sponsored counseling agency be made a prerequisite to employment of mothers. Furthermore, mothers should be employed only in such positions and during such hours as will not interfere with the care of their children.

"The immediate transfer of able men and women from nonessential occupations to essential work, and the employment of older women for shorter hours in occupations which do not require great physical exertion, are two means suggested for supplying the needs of industry before employing the mothers of children."

WARTIME ACTIVITIES OF THE P. T. A.

1. Combating Juvenile Delinquency

PARENT-TEACHER associations throughout the country are adapting their wartime programs and activities to the end that life on the home front will be kept worthy of the sacrifices that are being made for it on the battle front. Believing that it would be helpful for all of us to know about specific P.T.A. wartime activities, I am inviting the state presidents, in turn, to send in reports on some phase of this work in their own state. The first reports, appearing in this issue of the *Bulletin*, deal with the problem of juvenile delinquency, which has increased alarmingly since the war. Outstanding work in handling this problem is being carried on in many places. It is hoped that an account of what can be — and has been — accomplished will be an inspiration to other groups.

The solution of the juvenile delinquency problem, like many other wartime situations, depends upon the local needs and facilities. Not every community can handle it in the same way that Stockton or Camden City or Cleveland has done. But an account of the work done in those cities can point the way for others by showing methods and procedures that have been tried out and proven successful. Subsequent issues of the *Bulletin* will take up other phases of P.T.A. wartime activities.

— Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher
CHAIRMAN, WAR COMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA

Juvenile Protection Committee

• The Juvenile Protection committee of Stockton City Council has a large membership made up of persons closely connected with youth activities and problems. In addition to the chairman, the committee is made up of one representative from each of the twenty-one units in the council; the War Activities chairman; the Citizenship chairman; the Narcotics Education chairman; the Recreation chairman; the Character Education chairman; the School Attendance Director; and a representative from each of the following civic groups: Junior Red Cross, City Recreation Department, Y.M.C.A., Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, County Probation Department, County Health Department, and the churches. The P.T.A. Juvenile Protection chairman was sent to a six weeks' workshop on coordinating councils and youth problems, conducted by Stanford University.

Accomplishments

The committee had its first meeting in October 1942, and since then has met regularly on the first Wednesday of each month. Each member is asked to bring up for discussion any problem that has occurred in his neighborhood and the rest of the group helps to solve it. To date the following accomplishments are reported.

1. Hallowe'en parties sponsored by each parent-teacher group.

2. The passing of a curfew law.

3. Better supervision of dance halls and skating rinks.

4. More vigorous police activity in keeping minors out of gambling places and in preventing the sale of liquor to minors.

5. The establishment of a ball club, now with forty-six members, many of whom had been the most destructive boys in the neighborhood. The committee paid one dollar an hour for the services of a professional ball player, and the club met two hours a week. The City Recreation Department paid for the equipment and allowed the club the use of the city ball park. As a result of this activity, these "bad boys" were very little bother during the summer.

6. The finding of a number of foster homes for neglected children.

7. The gift of: (1) a number of personal kits of toilet articles for the children of the Detention Hall; (2) money to paint a club house for a Girl Scout troop; and (3) money to help the Y.M.C.A. with neighborhood groups.

8. The cooperation of the City School Department and the City Recreation Department in keeping five schools open through the summer for all kinds of craft work and for Junior Red Cross work.

Numerous other plans are under way that will increase the scope and effectiveness of the committee's work.

Friday Night Parties

• In the city of San Diego, where the population has jumped from 140,000 (1930 census) to 280,000 in 1940 and at present stands at 350,000, owing to the influx of war workers to the aircraft industries, there are many temptations offered to young people. Those old enough to work and earn amounts far above the peacetime average present a growing problem in themselves. To prevent a growing problem caused by restlessness of the younger teen-age children and to find them adequate entertainment among their own age groups called for thoughtful community planning.

The Sunset Secondary Council started a series of dances on Friday nights called "The Friday Fling," which resulted in an average attendance of 300. The council hired a hall and an orchestra and sent out invitations through the principals of the high schools. The parties last until 11 p.m. The young people can dance or play games, and they can buy soft drinks and refreshments.

Student tickets are exchanged for 45-cent admission tickets and check-outs are not permitted. Many of the young people are brought and taken home by their parents. Service men are not admitted, since these dances are to give young people of the same age an opportunity to get acquainted. There are usually eight or ten adults in charge.

School people are widely appreciative and the police are loud in their praises of this project. Three young boys who have been on parole to the police have been in regular attendance at the parties.

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Combating Juvenile Delinquency

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Recreation and Employment Projects

• With the slogan, "Service with Youth," the Tenth District, with 100,000 members, feels that an emphasis upon those things which can be done to give youth a feeling of usefulness and sincere adult interest will help most to give them security. Volunteer parent-teacher workers have assisted on playgrounds, for which the Tenth District has carried a rider on an insurance policy to cover liability. Employment agencies have been set up in local areas, manned by parent-teacher members, to register children who can give service for remuneration and adults who need help in gardening, caring for children, mowing lawns, etc.

Through the P.T.A., school gymnasiums have been opened for evening parties. The P.T.A. was also instrumental in promoting leadership in character-building groups by having the leaders certificated by the OCD as real war workers.

Training Courses

• Because recreation and playground leaders were otherwise employed in war work, the Santa Barbara Council organized a leadership course for playground leaders under trained teachers. The fifteen mothers who attended the six lectures and demonstrations served one afternoon each week throughout the summer on school playgrounds.

The parent-teacher people have also been very active in Alameda County in regard to juvenile delinquency. A comprehensive committee of over a hundred was set up, with members from both the 28th and 16th districts. As a result of the work of this committee, the Arroyo Viejo Community Council was formed. Securing the cooperation of the School Department and the Recreation Department, these volunteer workers formed two highly successful classes, one for boys and the other for girls. The boys were interested in weight-lifting and were told they could have a class if they could find an instructor. They found a man trained in that sport and soon a successful class was formed. "Charm, Incorporated" was a class offered to adolescent girls during the summer. Women skilled in various subjects — hairdressing, proper dress, etiquette, etc. — volunteered the instruction.

Working with the parent-teacher associations, a member of the Recreation Department planned a training course for parent volunteers. In the spring, two units set up schedules whereby each day of the week four parents were in attendance at the local school ground after school hours, to supplement the work of the one assigned playground director. When school closed, the volunteer P.T.A. workers took a one-week course in playground supervision. From ten to forty women signed up at each school, giving anywhere from one-half day a month to two days a week throughout the summer.

NEW JERSEY

• Increased employment of mothers — with consequent lack of close supervision of children—the number of training camps in or near New Jersey, and the influx of migratory labor in rural areas are the conditions which are contributing to the increase of juvenile delinquency in New Jersey.

Curfew Law

Camden County has done splendid work in securing a curfew law. The county Juvenile Protection chairman attended a private Juvenile Court held each Friday by the judge in charge. Seeing the tremendous increase in the cases of boys and girls under sixteen, and also learning of the vast increase in the number of girls being found around the various camps and barracks, the chairman decided that definite steps must be taken to curtail delinquency. Along with the county president and the Camden City Zone Chairman, she secured the interest of the local papers, made many contacts, and attended many meetings, including those of the City Commission.

In her report, this chairman says:

"Finally people began to realize we wanted a curfew or something to deter this fast rising tide of delinquency. We attended City Commission meetings not once but numerous times, for in Camden there was no ordinance. There had to be one written and passed upon. I personally attended each of these meetings with as many people as I could corral, prepared to meet the opposition of objectors, for everyone was not in sympathy. We also realized that the curfew was not the entire answer but definitely felt it was a step for good — and let me say this — had it not been for the parent-teacher associations, the curfew law would have fallen by the wayside. It has surely proven its worth. Before the curfew law was enacted there had been an average of twenty-six juveniles a month admitted to the Detention Home from Camden City alone. During the first two-month period following the enforcement of the law the total number for the two months had dropped to twelve."

Are you buying war bonds and stamps?

Is your kitchen contributing its share of fat?

OHIO

Improvement of Pin-Boy Working Conditions

• Early in the school year, Dr. David J. Wiens, Chief of the Bureau of Attendance of the Cleveland Board of Education, requested the Cleveland Council of Parent-Teacher Associations to assist in bringing about much-needed improvement in the working conditions among pin-boys in the bowling alleys of the community. Boys were working such late hours in the alleys that they were falling asleep in school or skipping school altogether. On January 5 a gathering of about eighty people was held in the public library auditorium, with representatives from the parent-teacher associations, the Juvenile Court, Consumers League, the Cleveland Safety Department, Jewish Welfare, Welfare Federation, Bowling Proprietors Association, and State Industrial Relations Department. It was agreed that the most glaring abuses were: the ages of the boys employed (some eleven years old), the hour of payment (at the end of the night), the late hours, the boys sleeping in the alleys at night, and the combination of bowling and liquor in the same building.

Facts Were Secured

In following the cases brought to trial, the committee found that some cases were dismissed, some were postponed on mere technicalities, and in other instances the fines assessed were far too low to make any impression on the owners of such a lucrative business. In some cases the blame was neatly shifted to the head pin-boy, while in others the people making the complaints were more roundly berated than the culprits.

Eventually, the Northern Ohio Bowling Proprietors Association voluntarily offered their cooperation in working out a solution. Two members of their executive committee, with their legal counsel, had a long talk with Superintendent Lake, Dr. Wiens, and the chairman of the P.T.A. committee on Juvenile Protection. After considerable discussion, an Advisory Committee was set up, composed of representatives of the Bowling

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PARENT EDUCATION COURSES

Two excellent courses are available to all parent-teacher members. Both are being published monthly in the *National Parent-Teacher.* One, *The Family's Stake in Freedom,* is of special interest to those who have children of grade or high school age. The other, *Basic Training for the Toddler,* deals with problems of preschool children. Leaflets listing the subjects being discussed were included in local unit packets.

Combating Juvenile Delinquency

(Continued from Page 4)

Commission, the P.T.A., the Board of Education, the Welfare Federation, the Cleveland Safety Department, the colored groups, the Juvenile Court, and the Federation of Women's Clubs. This committee was to have the responsibility of setting up and interpreting policies regarding the working conditions of pin-boys and also of selecting a coordinator. The first meeting of the committee was held on July 1, and at a special meeting a short time later, they decided upon a coordinator — William A. Nesi — who began his new duties on August 16.

In concluding her report, Mrs. J. W. Hallock, who was elected permanent chairman of the Advisory Committee, says:

> *"The rest of the committee is studying some proposed regulations for adoption or revision at the next regular meeting. Those who have struggled with the problem in Cleveland and throughout Ohio will feel relieved to know that such an experiment is on foot and that the parent-teacher association was an acknowledged force in a project so definitely concerned with the care and protection of children and youth."*

FLORIDA

Activities for Younger Children

• Various activities were carried on by parent-teacher associations in Florida. One group of P.T.A. mothers in Miami carried out the idea of juvenile protection by starting with the younger children. During the summer vacation, more than twenty-five room mothers had the children of their own neighborhoods come to their homes once a week, with picnics in the park on some of the days in between. The children's activities depended on the amount of space on the porch or in the yard, but usually games were played. A Y.W.C.A. secretary gave special instructions in simple handicraft to the mothers, so they could give the children interesting things to make.

Another P.T.A. conducted parent study groups. A third was co-sponsor with other civic organizations in the opening of a youth center in a park; a fourth played a major role in a vacation school for handicapped children; while a fifth held weekly dances for high school girls and boys.

OREGON

Full-Time Juvenile Officer

• As a result of P.T.A. activity, Jackson County now has a full-time juvenile officer — one of the first steps in combating the juvenile delinquency problem. The parent-teacher members were roused to the immediate necessity for having such an officer when Camp White was constructed, in the early spring of 1942. With the cooperation of the League of Women Voters, the Jackson County Parent-Teacher Association planned a panel program for its April meeting entitled, "The Need of Emergency Youth Protection in Jackson County." As a result of good publicity, four hundred attended this meeting.

The speakers included the president of the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, the superintendent of the Ashland schools, the principal of the Medford High School, the county judge, the county doctor, a Salvation Army Captain, and a Medford traffic officer.

A committee was appointed to attend the meetings when the county budget was made up and voted on. As a result, juvenile delinquency in Jackson County now is under control. This action meets a genuine need.

NOTE: A full account of the juvenile protection work done in Texas appears in the October issue of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER, in the department "P.T.A. Frontiers."

• THE *School Bus* • SITUATION

ABOUT 4,000,000 children, or one-sixth of the school population, ride to school in 78,976 buses. "Keeping 'em rolling" is a problem which the Office of Defense Transportation is solving through such means as:

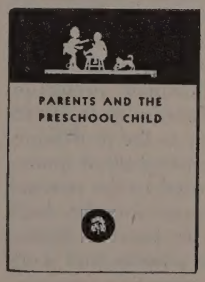
1. *Elimination of unnecessary mileage*
2. *Elimination of unnecessary stops*
3. *Staggering of school hours*
4. *Encouraging the use of other available transportation*

The total annual mileage of school buses has been reduced from 804 million miles to 648 million. This reduction means a savings in school bus equipment that is roughly equivalent to the addition of 2,000 new buses.

Each bus travels 7,500 miles per year on an average, and is usable for eight to ten years. With proper maintenance and careful operation, the school administration will be able to transport school children for the next two or three years. Even greater attention than before must be paid to safety factors, however, since the present Victory model bodies contain only 1,500 pounds of steel as against 3,500 pounds in prewar models. Furthermore, a new corps of bus drivers—women, elderly men, and young boys and girls—has taken the place of the usual men drivers.

The most acute problem today is the growing scarcity of truck tires. The stock pile of raw rubber is being rapidly depleted, and techniques for the manufacture of truck and bus tires have not yet been perfected. The Petroleum Administrator keeps estimates three months ahead of the number of gallons of oil and gasoline that will be required for school buses. In only five localities were school openings delayed or disturbed because of transportation difficulties, and these are now being adjusted.

Parents and the Preschool Child



A new National Congress publication. Mothers and fathers of young children will find in it a ready and able counselor, and preschool study groups will welcome its timely aid. The price is only twenty-five cents.

Symposiums Point the Way

TOWARD SOLVING TODAY'S PROBLEMS

AT THE September meeting of the Board of Managers, in Chicago, a new feature — a series of symposiums — was inaugurated as an effective means of presenting the wartime problems of childhood and youth. A group of experts discussed the physical, mental, and social well-being of all children from the standpoint of the home, the school, the community, and the future.

A wealth of constructive ideas emerged from these five symposiums — ideas that can and should be put into immediate practice. There are a number of specific suggestions for every parent-teacher member, every officer and committee chairman, and every local P.T.A. to carry out. By so doing, they can help to uphold the standards and ideals that are so important for the children and young people of today, who will be the parents and leaders of tomorrow.

• EVERY PARENT-TEACHER MEMBER CAN:

1. Volunteer for service in prenatal clinics, well child conferences, day care centers, hospitals that need nurse's aides, and other organizations. Training in nutrition and the duties of nurses' aides is given by the Red Cross. The parent-teacher member should, when possible, join classes in her own P.T.A.

2. Keep attractive looking, so that children will want to have their fun at home and bring their friends there.

3. Make the home a livable, attractive place, and let the children themselves take part in deciding on its decoration and furnishings.

4. Encourage creative activities — hobbies, shop work, etc. — in the home.

5. Give children, especially adolescents, something worth while to do. If possible, let them take some constructive part in the war effort.

6. Read the *National Parent-Teacher* every month for its constructive help.

• P. T. A. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN CAN:

1. Plan at least one program a year on safety, and give topical news about safety at every meeting.

2. Plan at least one program a year on peace and international relations. Seven different kinds of peace programs are possible: (1) a discussion within the group; (2) a panel discussion, with several well-informed persons taking part; (3) an "Information Please" program; (4) choral reading by children on the subject of international relations; (5) a skit performed by children or by P.T.A. members on a pertinent topic; (6) an address by an outside lecturer; and (7) the showing of a film.

3. Make sure that all P.T.A. meetings are challenging and timely.

4. Help to form as many preschool groups as possible.

5. Find out whether the educational programs and activities of the schools are geared to the war effort and planned to meet immediate and future needs.

6. Investigate the state laws to see whether they offer adequate protection and security for teachers, so as to attract the right sort of people to the profession.

7. See whether the program of financing the schools is geared to the postwar needs. Attend hearings for the local school budget, study the taxation system as it is related to the schools, and work for Federal aid for education.

8. Investigate the future of transportation for school children. School buses are deteriorating, and at present there are no adequate replacements.

9. With regard to exceptional children: Find out how many there are in your state, community, and neighborhood. Find out what the schools are doing for them. Find out what other organizations, such as societies for the crippled, for the blind, etc., are doing for them. Find out what provision is made in the state laws to safeguard the educational interests of all types of exceptional children, the handicapped as well as the unusually gifted.

10. With the cooperation of librarians, work out study courses on children's reading.

11. With the cooperation of the Red Cross, organize P.T.A. classes in nutrition or in the training of nurses' aides.

12. Make the greatest possible use of audio-visual aids of all types. Study also the educational value of old readers, maps, cartoons, good magazines, and even billboards along the highways.

13. Learn what resources (in various fields of P.T.A. activity) are available in the state and the community.

14. Make sure that all information and materials are passed on from one administration to the next.

15. Find out whether the regulations governing the sale of liquor to minors are rigidly enforced. If not, investigate the matter to see what can be done.

16. With regard to social hygiene: Discuss the problem with other leaders, preferably in groups, and decide what needs to be done. Organize a parents' group on the sex education of children or on the sex guidance of young people. Get reading materials from the public library, the school library, and the local bookstores. (State boards of health usually have much fine material.) Find out what sex education is given in the schools. Make sure there are adequate teaching materials — good textbooks, charts, and moving pictures — for sex education. Investigate the venereal disease problem in the community, its seriousness and what is being done to handle it. See whether the laws for its control are being enforced. Help to educate public opinion on social hygiene through personal contacts, newspapers, broadcasts, posters, magazine articles, P.T.A. activities, churches, etc.

17. With regard to narcotics (including alcohol) education: Form study groups for parents and teachers together. Create an interest in having narcotics education taught in teacher training institutes. See what can be done about getting authentic material on narcotics education into the schools.

18. Study the outstanding traits, living conditions, and contributions of various minority groups in the community.

19. Aim at having the *National Parent-Teacher* read by every parent in the community.

• EVERY LOCAL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION CAN:

1. Initiate projects needed by the community, such as recreation centers for teen-age children, health activities, a school lunch program, playgrounds, etc.

2. Provide community interests for older children, after observing them to see just which activities help to build their self-respect.

3. Hold youth councils.

4. Find out about, and publicize, interesting places to go and worth-while things to do, for persons of all ages.

5. Inaugurate a series of simply written articles in the local papers, dealing with vital topics pertaining to youth; include articles by the young people themselves, telling their side of the story; also include descriptions of cases in which the problems have been solved.

6. Conduct "Know Your Neighbor" campaigns, making it a special point to visit the newcomers to the community, particularly those living in trailers and housing projects.

7. Conduct "Back to School" campaigns, making it a special point to get young people who have taken war jobs to come back to school.

8. Conduct "Back to Church" campaigns.

9. Form coordinating councils with other community agencies that are interested in the welfare of children and young people.

10. Arrange for cooperative recruitment of volunteer leaders of Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, etc.

11. Include librarians on P.T.A. boards and committees whenever possible.

12. Help boys and girls to appreciate what the school is doing.

13. Help to provide entertainment for convalescent children.

14. Help to provide care for the children of working mothers.

15. Publicize the *National Parent-Teacher* and increase the number of subscriptions.

FREE SAMPLE COPY

National Parent-Teacher
The Official Magazine of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers
JUNE
15 CENTS
This Issue Contains A SPECIAL PARENT-TEACHER
WARTIME SUPPLEMENT

A FREE sample copy of the *National Parent-Teacher* has been mailed to every local president. This copy is for promotion use. *First,* read it yourself if you are not already familiar with your national magazine. *Second,* give it to the person in your P.T.A. who is to be responsible for taking subscriptions. Please do not "bottleneck" the copy. It has a real mission to perform, and that mission is to familiarize local members with the type of magazine their national organization is producing. Many of the copies mailed are back copies, but they will serve this particular promotion purpose just as well as more recent issues.

- Have you appointed a Magazine chairman? If not, please do not forget to do it before the next meeting.
- Have you sent in your order for subscriptions this fall? One subscription is the *minimum* expected from any P.T.A.
- Give your *National Parent-Teacher* **a chance** to help America's children by getting their parents to subscribe to it.

A free Magazine Promotion Packet of helpful information is available. It is yours for the asking. Send request to National Office in Chicago 5, Illinois.

CONGRESS CONTACTS

Since May 1943, national leaders have represented the Congress at the following meetings:

- Conference on Venereal Disease Control. Mrs. Bess N. Rosa, national chairman, committee on Social Hygiene.
- American Country Life Association Conference. Dr. I. D. Weeks, national chairman, committee on Rural Service.
- Conference of the National Association for Nursery Education. Mrs. William A. Hastings, president.
- Home Safety Advisory Committee Meeting in New York City. Mrs. Albert L. Gardner, national chairman, committee on Congress Publications.
- Home Safety Advisory Committee Meeting in Chicago. Mrs. L. W. Hughes, first vice-president, and Mrs. Wm. Hastings, president.
- National Safety Congress. Mrs. L. W. Hughes, first vice-president, and Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, national chairman, committee on Safety.
- National Educational Planning Commission. Mrs. J. W. Bingham, vice-president, and Mrs. R. H. Jesse, national chairman, committee on International Relations.
- Meeting of the Cooperating Committee on School Lunches. Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, vice-president.
- National Advisory Committee of the Women's Land Army. Mrs. L. W. Hughes, first vice-president.
- National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. Dr. E. L. Fox, president, Virginia Congress.
- First National Conference on Rheumatic Fever Programs. U. S. Children's Bureau. Dr. Marion Hotopp, national chairman, committee on Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children.

Since her election last May, Mrs. William A. Hastings, national president, has conferred at various times with government agencies in Washington, D. C., concerning the wartime program of the National Congress. Through attendance at conferences and meetings of other groups interested in the welfare of children, our national leaders bring back to us information that guides us in setting up our own activities and programs.

MAKE AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK COUNT

Agnes Samuelson, Chairman, School Education Committee, N. C. P. T.

THE observance of American Education Week offers parent-teacher associations timely opportunities to call public attention to the necessity of upholding schools in wartime. Good schools are essential in war and in peace; they serve as instruments of victory and agencies of reconstruction. They build the future.

The interpretation of school needs in the present crisis is the special mission of American Education Week this year. The emphasis is upon education for victory. To that end the special activities may well deal with the role of the schools in the war effort, the adverse effects of teacher shortage upon the education of boys and girls, the measures needed to offset juvenile delinquency, and the importance of improving the school program in terms of new needs and of upholding school support in wartime.

Parent-teacher associations may well ask all their committees to cooperate in concentrating attention upon American Education Week. Such special activities as the following require advance planning, but they yield worth-while results:

1. Join with other groups in holding meetings in the form of forums, symposiums, committee conferences, open discussions, quiz programs.
2. Organize a series of radio broadcasts and newspaper stories with the advice of publicity committees.
3. Place posters and school displays in store windows showing the contribution of schools to the war effort.
4. Ask local merchants to emphasize education in their advertisements.
5. Organize four-minute speaking squads to appear before luncheon groups, service clubs, and community gatherings.
6. Secure literature for distribution at these meetings.
7. Arrange for short dramatic skits, assembly programs, floor talks, and musical selections by pupils at community meetings and over the radio.
8. Encourage patrons to visit the schools to observe regular school work.
9. Appoint joint committees of school people and parent-teacher workers to study the areas of programs, personnel, and finance.
10. Hold open house for the board of education.

Please call your Membership chairman's attention to *Our Main Line of Effort* in the November issue of the *National Parent-Teacher.*

Institutes On Professional Relations

• In spite of war conditions, at least fifty-five — perhaps as many as sixty — institutes on professional relations were held during the summer of 1943. These were scattered from Washington State to Florida and from Vermont to New Mexico.

Forty-one of the forty-five institutions reporting by questionnaire had the cooperation in their institutes of at least three different educational groups. The state education association cooperated in thirty-four of the forty-five; the state department of education cooperated in thirty-two; and *the state congress of parents and teachers cooperated in thirty.* In all of them the National Education Association assisted by sending materials, an exhibit when requested, and a personal representative when possible.

Forty-four of the forty-five reported that the institute was planned by a planning committee. The median number of members on the committee was six.

Thirty-five of the forty-five reported the cooperation in planning, programs, or both, of at least three of the so-called "levels" of the profession.

STREAMLINERS

MEMBERS of the Illinois Board of Managers were guests at the symposiums conducted during the September meeting of the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

• • •

The Girl Scouts of America are trying to extend their programs into the smaller communities. Parent-teacher groups are urged to cooperate in this effort, giving the girls leadership and encouragement wherever possible.

• • •

Most members of the Pickard P.T.A. of Omaha, Nebraska, walk to their P.T.A. meetings. Those who do ride bring their cars full. Members who attend the Council meetings use buses or street cars. This association sells war stamps, old papers, and magazines, collects kitchen fat from homes, and has a large scrap iron pile.

• • •

The Evanston P.T.A. of Cincinnati, Ohio, was the first association in the country to qualify for the Highest Award Certificate. This P.T.A. has sixty-eight families in membership and sixty-eight subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*. Mrs. Emil Fleck is president, and Mrs. Lester Miley is Magazine chairman.

• • •

From Local Unit Reports

Analysis of local unit reports shows that the most popular type of program continues to be built around an address by a speaker, followed by discussion. Projects most frequently reported were:

School lunches
Health clinics
Projects to furnish milk for the undernourished
Purchase of library books, radios, band uniforms
Student aid
Recreational activities
Garden clubs
Sponsorship of Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and school safety patrols

The National Parent-Teacher was reported the most frequently used National Congress publication. Members of local groups have assisted in the sale of war bonds and stamps, the handling of sugar and gasoline rationing, and the registration of men for selective service.

• • •

A recent publication (No. 299) of the U.S. Children's Bureau, *The Selection and Training of Volunteers in Child Care*, has been especially recommended to parent-teacher groups. Prepared in cooperation with the Office of Civilian Defense, its content is outlined for twelve lecture periods followed by discussions.

USE YOUR *P. T. A. Binoculars*

IF YOU'VE visited a busy food market lately — and which of us has not? — you've noticed how family shoppers nowadays try to get the greatest possible nutritive value out of every wartime dollar and every ration stamp. They aren't having any waste. They want to win this war and build up their families for a strong and victorious peace.

But other things besides money and ration points can be wasted.

What about effort?
What about time?
What about opportunity?

Is Your P. T. A. "On the Beam"?

If a parent-teacher group is to function efficiently in times like these, it has to be informed and "on the beam." Half-knowledge won't do — whether it is half-knowledge of current trends in parent-teacher work or half-knowledge of what the best thinkers feel to be the major needs of America's children today. The work of the parent-teacher organization, with all that it implies, has to be seen *whole* if it is to be done as it must be done in the face of today's conditions.

And there's a mighty good pair of binoculars available for seeing it just that way. One lens is the *National Parent-Teacher*. The other is the *National Congress Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* tells you what is being done. The Magazine tells you what will need to be done. And both of them tell you how to do it.

Only $1.20 a Set

This priceless aid to insight — the entire combination, ten issues of the Magazine and eleven of the Bulletin — will cost you just one dollar and twenty cents. At this price, you can't afford to be without such help as they will give you.

Your association needs at least enough subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher* and the *National Congress Bulletin* to supply its officers and chairmen without need of undue waiting on the part of any one of them. If there's a subscription for each of them, so much the better. These two publications are P.T.A. insurance today. While they're read and used, there's very little danger of the unit's falling apart. Order your P.T.A. binoculars now.

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